

*Amendments to the Claims*

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings, of claims in the application.

1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a voice user interface for a user comprising:

presenting an input interface to enable ~~enabling~~ the user to specify individual character traits ~~desired in a virtual host;~~[[,]]

~~wherein the specified character traits are used to selecting~~ a consistent personality for ~~the~~ a virtual host based on the specified character traits, wherein the consistent personality defines adjustments to one or more interface features of the virtual host;

storing, at a computing device, the specified character traits in a user profile having preference information for the user; and

generating the virtual host with the consistent personality in accordance with the specified character traits.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a tone of voice for the virtual host.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a speed of voice for the virtual host.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a background for the virtual host.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a sex for the virtual host.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining an accent for the virtual host.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a formality level of a conversational style for the virtual host.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the user profile further includes user interaction history information, the method further comprising: adjusting the conversational style based on the user interaction history information.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein adjusting comprises changing the formality level according to a level of user experience with the voice user interface.

19-55. (Canceled)

56. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a voice interface to an end user comprising:

receiving specified specifying individual character traits desired in a virtual host[[,]] from a communication device associated with a login identifier;

wherein the specified character traits are used to select determining a consistent personality for the virtual host based on the specified character traits, wherein the individual character traits are specified by the end user of the voice interface;

storing, at a computing device, the specified character traits in a profile having preference information corresponding to the login identifier; and

generating adjusting one or more interface features of a the virtual host associated with the login identifier with based on adjustments defined by the consistent personality in accordance with the specified character traits; and

sending a dialogue to the communication device using a conversational style consistent with the adjusted one or more interface features.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a tone of voice for the virtual host.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a speed of voice for the virtual host.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a background for the virtual host.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a sex for the virtual host.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining an accent for the virtual host.

62. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 56, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a formality level of a the conversational style for the virtual host.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62, wherein the profile further includes interaction history information, the method further comprising: adjusting the conversational style based on the interaction history information.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 63, wherein adjusting comprises changing the formality level according to a level of experience with the voice interface.

65. (Currently Amended) A system for providing a voice interface to an end user, the system comprising:

a memory storing[[:]]:

~~logic~~ an interface module configured to enable the end user to specify individual character traits ~~desired in a virtual host,~~

~~wherein the specified character traits are used~~ a selecting module configured to select a consistent personality for ~~the~~ a virtual host based on the specified character traits, wherein the consistent personality defines adjustments to one or more interface features of the virtual host[[;]].

~~logic~~ a storing module configured to store the specified character traits in a profile having preference information within the memory[[;]], and

~~logic~~ a generating module configured to generate the virtual host with the consistent personality in accordance with the specified character traits; and

a processor ~~operable~~ configured to process ~~logic~~ the enabling, storing, and generating modules.

66. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 65, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a tone of voice for the virtual host.

67. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 65, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a speed of voice for the virtual host.

68. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 65, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a background for the virtual host.

69. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 65, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a sex for the virtual host.

70. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 65, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining an accent for the virtual host.

71. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 65, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a formality level of a conversational style for the virtual host.

72. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 71, wherein the profile further includes interaction history information, the system further comprising:

~~logic~~ an adjusting module configured to adjust the conversational style based on the interaction history information.

73. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 72, wherein adjusting the conversational style based on the interaction history information comprises changing the formality level according to a level of experience with the voice interface.

74. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer program product comprising a tangible~~ computer usable medium having ~~computer program logic recorded~~ stored thereon computer-executable instructions ~~for enabling a processor to provide a voice interface to~~

~~an end user that, if executed by a computing device, the computer program logic cause~~  
the computing device to perform a method comprising:

~~receiving specified specifying means for enabling a processor to specify~~  
individual character traits ~~desired in a virtual host~~[[,]]

~~wherein the specified character traits are used to select~~ determining a consistent  
personality for ~~the~~ a virtual host based on the specified character traits, wherein the  
individual character traits are specified by the end user of the voice interface;

~~storing means for enabling a processor to store~~ the specified character traits in a  
profile having preference information; and

~~generating means for enabling a processor to generate~~ the virtual host with the  
consistent personality in accordance with the specified character traits, wherein the  
consistent personality specifies adjustments to one or more interface features of the  
virtual host.

75. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer program product~~ computer-usable  
medium of claim 74, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining  
a tone of voice for the virtual host.

76. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer program product~~ computer-usable  
medium of claim 74, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining  
a speed of voice for the virtual host.

77. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer program product~~ computer-usable medium of claim 74, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a background for the virtual host.

78. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer program product~~ computer-usable medium of claim 74, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a sex for the virtual host.

79. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer program product~~ computer-usable medium of claim 74, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining an accent for the virtual host.

80. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer program product~~ computer-usable medium of claim 74, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a formality level of a conversational style for the virtual host.

81. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer program product~~ computer-usable medium of claim 80, wherein the profile further includes interaction history information, the computer program logic further comprising:

adjusting ~~means for enabling a processor to adjust~~ the conversational style based on the interaction history information.



82. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer program product~~ computer-usable medium of claim 81, wherein the adjusting comprises changing the formality level according to a level of experience with the voice interface.

83. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a voice user interface for a user comprising:

presenting an input interface to enable ~~enabling~~ the user to specify individual character traits ~~desired in a virtual host~~[[,]];

~~wherein the specified character traits are used to~~ selecting a consistent personality for ~~the~~ a virtual host based on the specified character traits, wherein the consistent personality defines adjustments to one or more interface features of the virtual host;

storing, at a computing device, the specified character traits in a user profile including user interaction history information;

generating the virtual host with the consistent personality in accordance with the specified character traits;

querying the user for permission to adjust a conversational style of the virtual host if user interaction history reaches a threshold; and

adjusting the conversational style if the user grants permission.

84. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 83, wherein adjusting the conversational style comprises changing a formality level of the conversational style according to a level of user experience with the voice user interface.

85. (Currently Amended) A system for providing a voice interface, the system comprising:

a memory storing[[,]]:

~~logic~~ a receiving module configured to ~~specify~~ receive individual character traits ~~desired in a virtual host~~[[,]];

~~wherein the specified character traits are used to select~~ a determining module configured to determine a consistent personality for ~~the~~ a virtual host based on the specified character traits, wherein the individual character traits are specified by an end user of the voice interface;

~~logic~~ a storing module configured to store the specified character traits in a profile that includes interaction history information within the memory;

~~logic~~ a generating module configured to generate the virtual host with the consistent personality in accordance with the specified character traits, wherein the consistent personality defines adjustments to one or more interface features of the virtual host;

~~logic~~ a querying module configured to query the user for permission to adjust a conversational style of the virtual host if interaction history reaches a threshold;

~~logic~~ an adjusting module configured to adjust the conversational style if the user grants permission to adjust the conversational style; and

a processor ~~operable~~ configured to process ~~logic~~ the storing, generating, querying, and adjusting modules.

86. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 85, adjusting the conversational style comprises changing a formality level of the conversational style according to a level of experience with the voice user interface.

87. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer program product comprising a tangible~~ computer usable medium having ~~computer program logic recorded~~ stored thereon computer-executable instructions for enabling a processor to provide a voice interface that, if executed by a computing device, the computer program logic cause the computing device to perform a method comprising:

receiving specified ~~specifying means for enabling the processor to specify~~ individual character traits ~~desired in a virtual host~~[[,]]

~~wherein the specified character traits are used to select~~ determining a consistent personality for ~~the~~ a virtual host based on the specified character traits, wherein the individual character traits are specified by an end user of the voice interface;

~~storing means for enabling the processor to store~~ the specified character traits in a profile having preference information;

~~generating means for enabling the processor to generate~~ the virtual host with the consistent personality in accordance with the specified character traits, wherein the consistent personality defined adjustments to one or more interface features of the virtual host;

~~querying means for enabling the processor to query~~ a user for permission to adjust a conversational style of the virtual host if interaction history reaches a threshold; and

adjusting ~~means for enabling the processor to adjust~~ the conversational style based on the interaction history information, if the user grants permission.

88. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer program product~~ computer-usable medium of claim 87, wherein the adjusting comprises changing a formality level of the conversational style according to a level of experience with the voice interface.

89. (New) A system comprising:

receiving means to receive specified individual character traits;

determining means to determine a consistent personality for the virtual host based on the specified character traits, wherein the individual character traits are specified by the end user of the voice interface;

storing means to store the specified character traits in a profile having preference information; and

generating means to generate the virtual host with the consistent personality in accordance with the specified character traits, wherein the consistent personality specifies adjustments to one or more interface features of the virtual host.